

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to organize a trip, comprising:

at a travel service site, establishing a homepage for the trip;

sending an electronic notification to potential trip participants from the travel service site for informing them of the existence of the trip homepage; and

making at least travel arrangements related to the trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the trip homepage.

2. A method as in claim 1, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on matters related to the trip.

3. A method as in claim 1, where emailing includes sending a link to the homepage.

4. A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging payment for the trip.

5. A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging accommodations during the trip.

6. A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

7. A method to provide a group travel service over the Internet, comprising:

at a travel service site, in response to a group trip leader establishing a homepage for a group trip, the group trip leader identifying at least email addresses of potential

group trip participants, automatically contacting the potential group trip participants from the travel service site for providing them with a link to the group trip homepage; and

making travel arrangements related to the group trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the group trip homepage.

8. A method as in claim 7, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on matters related to the trip.

9. A method as in claim 7, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging payment for the trip.

10. A method as in claim 7, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging accommodations during the trip.

11. A method as in claim 7, where the travel arrangements comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

12. A method as in claim 7, further comprising enabling a member of the public to learn of the existence of the group trip, and join the group trip as a group trip participant.

13. A method as in claim 7, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip at the travel service site, and giving group trip participants access to the travel log album.

14. A method as in claim 7, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip at the travel service site, and giving both group trip participants and members of the public access to the travel log album.

15. A method as in claim 14, where at least group trip participants are enabled to upload photographs to the travel log album, and where group trip participants and members of the public are enabled to download photographs from the travel log album.

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16. A system operable to provide a group travel service over the Internet, comprising a server executing software for implementing the group travel service, said server being bidirectionally coupled to the Internet and responsive to a group trip leader identifying contact information for potential group trip participants for automatically contacting the potential group trip participants for providing them with a link to a group trip homepage, said server being further responsive to potential group trip participants accessing the group trip homepage for making travel arrangements related to the group trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the group trip homepage, said travel arrangements comprising at least one of arranging payment for the trip and arranging accommodations during the trip.

17. A system as in claim 16, where said travel arrangements further comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

18. A system as in claim 16, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on matters related to the trip.

19. A system as in claim 16, said server further establishing a travel service homepage for enabling a member of the public to learn of the existence of the group trip, and to join the group trip as a group trip participant using at least the group trip homepage.

20. A system as in claim 16, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip at the travel service site, and providing both group trip participants and members of the public access to the travel log album, where at least group trip participants are enabled to upload photographs to the travel log album, and where group trip participants and members of the public are enabled to download photographs from the travel log album.